

Title: Term livestock grazing permit renewals for Lyle and Ruth Whiteside (#2703298) on the Lower Riggs Allotment (#01087), and Richard and Meredith Rankin (#2704063) on the Lower Riggs and Boulder Spring (#21009) Allotments.

The proposed action is to fully process the renewal of the term livestock grazing permits for Lyle and Ruth Whiteside (#2703298) on the Lower Riggs Allotment (#01087), and Richard and Meredith Rankin (#2704063) on the Lower Riggs and Boulder Spring (#21009) Allotments. The issuance of the term grazing permits would be for a period of up to ten years.

The term grazing permit for Lyle and Ruth Whiteside was issued on 3/10/2015 for the period 3/22/2015 – 2/28/2023. The term grazing permit for Richard and Meredith Rankin was issued on 2/19/15, for the period 3/1/2015 – 2/28/2017, due to a grazing transfer. Both permits were issued under the authority of the Appropriations Act (Sec. 411, PL 113-76) and authorize cattle grazing according to the following:

Lyle and Ruth Whiteside (#2703298) on the Lower Riggs Allotment (#01087).

ALLOTMENT		Authorization Num.	LIVESTOCK		GRAZING PERIOD		** % Public Land	AUMs		
Name	Number		* Number	Kind	Begin	End		Active Use	Hist. Susp. Use	Permitted Use
Lower Riggs	1087	#2703298	102	cattle	3/1	3/24	100%	1,099	0	1,099
					5/1	2/28				

* This number is approximate

** This is for billing purposes only.

Richard and Meredith Rankin (#2704063) on the Lower Riggs and Boulder Spring (#21009) Allotments.

ALLOTMENT		Authorization Num.	LIVESTOCK		GRAZING PERIOD		** % Public Land	AUMs		
Name	Number		* Number	Kind	Begin	End	Active Use	Hist. Susp. Use	Permitted Use	
Boulder Spring	21009	#2704063	70	cattle	10/1	3/31	100%	416	0	416
Lower Riggs	01087		29	cattle	3/1	3/24	100%	309	0	309
					5/1	2/28				

* These numbers are approximate

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The Lower Riggs and Boulder Spring Allotments are land based allotments, located approximately 40 miles south of Caliente, Nevada, in the east-central portion of Lincoln County (Map #1). Elevations within the allotments range from approximately 3,500 feet within Meadow Valley Wash to approximately 5,500 feet in the eastern portions of the allotments. The 19,523 acre Lower Riggs Allotment is situated within the following watersheds: Kane Springs Wash (#217), Meadow Valley Wash South (#214 B), and Meadow Valley Wash North (#214 A). The

17,752 acre Boulder Spring Allotment is located within the Kane Springs Wash and Meadow Valley Wash South Watersheds.

There are two known springs on the Lower Riggs Allotment: Lower Riggs Spring and Upper Riggs Spring. Both springs feed an 11 mile pipeline capable of providing water to six watering locations (troughs) along its length.

Boulder Spring is the only known spring on the Boulder Spring Allotment. This spring is capable of delivering water, through a 14 mile pipeline, to six watering locations (troughs) along its length.

None of the allotments are associated with a Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA).

A portion of the Meadow Valley Wilderness Area occurs within both allotments. The Lower Riggs and Boulder Spring Allotments contain 1,562 acres and 3,511 acres of wilderness, respectively.

Both allotments contain general tortoise habitat for the federally threatened Agassiz's desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). One hundred twenty-five acres of this habitat is located in the extreme southern tip of the Lower Riggs Allotment, and 9,674 acres is located within the Boulder Spring Allotment. Desert tortoise critical habitat and desert tortoise Areas of Critical Environmental Concern does not exist within the allotments.

The BLM will collect monitoring data; assess rangeland health; collaborate with the respective permittees, regarding recommendations for both allotments; and summarize the results in a Standards Determination Document. Subsequently, the BLM will prepare an Environmental Assessment document that analyzes the environmental effects of renewing both permits. Both documents will be provided for public review at a later date.

General Location:

Lower Riggs Allotment

T.7 S., R.66 E., MDBM, many sections
T.8 S., R. 66 E., MDBM, many sections
T.7 S., R. 67 E., MDBM, many sections
T.8 S., R. 67 E., MDBM, many sections

Boulder Spring Allotment

T.7 S., R.65 E., MDBM, many sections
T.8 S., R. 65 E., MDBM, many sections
T.9 S., R. 65 E., MDBM, many sections
T.8 S., R. 66 E., MDBM, many sections
T.9 S., R. 66 E., MDBM, many sections

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Location of the Lower Riggs (#01087) and Boulder Spring (#21009) Allotments with Respect to the Meadow Valley Wilderness Area and Surrounding Nevada Towns.

